



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**NEWS RELEASE****JACK O'CONNELL**  
State Superintendent  
of Public Instruction

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**State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell Releases  
School District Budget Cuts Survey Results***Schools Make Deep Cuts to Programs Due to Budget Crisis*

SACRAMENTO — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today released the results of a survey of local educational agencies (LEAs) to find out how state budget cuts to public education are affecting them. O'Connell held a news conference in the Natomas Unified School District in Sacramento County where all eight elementary school libraries were shut down to close a budget gap. The survey results are attached.

"The survey results make clear that school administrators are making heartrending decisions to balance their dwindling budgets while trying valiantly to keep students' best interests in mind," said O'Connell. "Sixty-five percent of districts that responded to this survey made cuts to building and school grounds maintenance, 58 percent cut funding for instructional materials, and 58 percent reduced funding for district administration. Forty percent of respondents have reduced the number of teachers; reduced or eliminated summer school; increased class sizes; and cut art and music classes, closed libraries, eliminated school nurse positions, and canceled sports programs.

"These deep cuts to our schools were made even though the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided critical funds to save education jobs last year. These funds are now running out, and our state budget picture continues to look bleak. In the Governor's May Revise, he proposes another \$1.5 billion in general-purpose funding cuts that will exacerbate the current annihilation of services to students.

"Our public education system is in crisis. These cuts hurt students and hurt California's future economic viability. I call on the Governor and the Legislature to show the courage and leadership needed to find a budget solution that puts students first and protects our schools from further cuts."

The California Department of Education launched the survey in April to ask administrators in county offices of education, school districts, and charter schools how they have balanced their budgets in light of state budget cuts to public education. At the close of the survey in May, 387 LEAs responded. They represent 1.7 million students, or 26 percent of the statewide enrollment. The cuts at Natomas Unified School District are similar to cuts made by LEAs throughout the state.

"We made the decision to close our eight elementary school libraries with a heavy heart, but our budget situation is so dire that we had no choice," said Natomas Unified School District Superintendent General Davie, Jr. "We've also cut all of our health aides, eliminated busing, shortened our school year by five days, increased K-3 class sizes to 30-1, and issued layoff notices to about 30 percent of our teachers, classified staff, and administration."

Administrators were asked questions on what type of educational organization they are; which programs were cut or eliminated in the last two school years, 2008-09 and 2009-10; enrollment data as of October 2009; and what other actions were taken in the last two school years such as staff reductions, school closures, or reduced school year as result of funding cuts. These are the results of K-12 budget cuts survey by category and the percentage of respondents that made cuts in those categories.

Results of K-12 Budget Cuts Survey by Category	Percentage of Respondents
Building, Grounds/Maintenance	65%
District Administration	58%

Instructional Materials	58%
Counselors, Nurses, Psychologists	48%
Art, Music, & Drama	48%
Classified Staff Compensation Reductions	47%
Certificated Staff Compensation Reductions	45%
K-3 Class Size Reduction	35%
Electives	34%
Library	34%
Facilities	33%
Teachers	32%
Professional Development Programs	30%
Paraeducators, Instructional Assistants	29%
Gifted and Talented Education	28%
Athletics	27%
Supplemental Instruction, Summer School	26%
Adult Education	20%
High School Class Size Reduction	18%
Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment	18%
Reduced School Year	16%
Food, Nutrition Services	14%
Technology Services	12%
Transportation	12%
Physical Education	12%
Career Technical Education	11%
School Closure	10%
Child Development, Early Childhood Programs	8%
Compensatory Education	5%
Special Education	5%
Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Programs	4%
Driver Education	4%
Safe Schools, Security, School Police	4%
Multilingual Services, Services for English Learners	3%
Regional Occupational Centers and Programs	1%
Homeless Education	0%

For more information on the state budget crisis impact on education, please visit the California Department of Education's Budget Crisis Report Card Web page at [Budget Crisis Report Card - Hot Topics](#).

For a picture of today's news conference, please visit [Year 2010 - Multimedia](#).

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